

**Reminder: \*Steel shot is required on all GPA's and WPA's  
\*2 Bonus Blue-winged Teal allowed first 16 days of season  
Only residents may hunt pheasant this weekend on Public  
Land ONLY.**

## Aurora County

Lynn Geuke



### Fishing report:

**Wilmarth Mitchell:** NO VEHICLES OFF ROAD.

**Reminder:** The minimum length limit on Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass in the lake is 15"  
THE ENTIRE LAKE OF WILMARTH IS A NO WAKE ZONE!

**Nelson Lake:** No report. NO VEHICLES DRIVING OFF ROADS.



**Hunting report:** Waterfowl hunting is going well so far this year. White Lake and Platte Lake seem to be holding the most ducks in the area. Hunters have done well thus far. Fish Lake has held some ducks. There are not many geese in the area at this time. Hunting pressure is more concentrated now due to lack of water. The pheasant outlook looks good for the upcoming season and birds appear to be healthy. Deer are doing well.

## Beadle County

Chris Kuntz



**Fishing Report:** Fishing has been slow.

**James River:** A few walleye have been caught near the dams.

**Lake Byron:** No report.

**Mud Lake:** No activity.

**Cavour Lake:** No report.

**Ravine:** No activity.



**Hunting Report:** Waterfowl hunters had moderate success this weekend with better numbers of birds in the northern half of the county.

## Bon Homme County

Todd Crownover



### Fishing Report

**Missouri River:** Catfish are biting on worms and stink bait in the shallows, some are good sized. Large and Smallmouth Bass are being caught on artificials. Drum and carp are also biting on worms. Crappies have been spotty but are being caught on minnows. Walleye have been slow.

**Lake Henry:** Bluegill and crappies are biting on worms, leaches and minnows. Small Rapala's are also catching bass and larger crappies.

**Remember bass size is 15 inches and the lake is slow-no wake.**

**Clear Lake:** No report.

**Merkel Lake (Singleton GPA):** No report.

**Heritage GPA:** Small bluegill and bass are being caught on worms.



**Hunting Report:** No activity.

**Low Plains South Zone (South of Hwy 50) opens October 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## Brookings County

Jeff Grendler



### Fishing Reports:

**Lake Sinai:** Fishing has been slow. A few walleyes have been picked up but anglers are really having to work for these. A few smallmouth bass have been hitting.

**West Lake Oakwood:** No activity.

**East Oakwood:** No Activity.

**Oak Lake:** No activity.

**Brush Lake:** Fishing has been slow with only a few small perch taken.

**Lake Poinsett:** A few walleyes and occasional perch. Fishing has been slow.

**East 81 ponds:** A few walleyes have been caught from shore, 14-16 inches. Anglers have been using minnows and casting small crankbaits. Weedline has died down making casting easier.

**Lake Hendricks:** Slow, little to no activity.

**Lake Goldsmith:** Slow little to no activity.

**Lake Campbell:** No Activity.

**Dakota Nature Park:** Largemouth bass are starting to bite and a few nice fish have been caught. Small crankbaits and soft plastic rigged texas or wacky style. Soft plastics green or brown in color seems to be the best.



**Hunting Report:** Good number of ducks in the area. Water levels are decent with most wetlands public and private having enough to set decoys. Lots of teal with a few local mallards. Canada geese are starting to return. Hunters scouting silage fields have had success with geese and ducks. The northwest and southwest parts of Brookings County have been the best. There are a few areas in the northeast that have some good numbers of both geese and ducks. Hunters are reminded that when hunting on the water that most of these waters are overflowing over private property and that the land underneath is in private ownership. Hunters need to stay on the water when hunting. Since the land under the water is privately owned hunters walking on or boats touching the bottom is considered trespass. Very few of these lakes have shorelines that are open to public access. Most islands are owned privately on meandered waters.

## Clay County

Tony Stokely



### Fishing Report:

**Missouri River:** There has been more activity but no reports.

**Vermillion River:** Some fishing success along Vermillion river for catfish.

**Reminder:** There must be a wearable lifejacket of appropriate size for everybody on board your boat.



**Hunting Report:** Farmers are starting to cut corn. Waterfowl hunters on the Missouri River will be dealing with higher water levels than in the years past. The higher water level is expected to stay the same or increase potentially until December 10th according to the Army Corp of Engineers. Archery Deer Hunters are prepping for opening weekend. Crop harvest will be a factor this year and will provide a lot of cover later into the year.

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# Davison County

Andy Petersen



## Fishing Report:

**Remember Firesteel Creek is off limits to the taking of any baitfish.**

**Lake Mitchell:** Bluegill and Crappie are being caught. Small bass and walleye. Nice catfish all around the lake.

**James River:** Catfish all along the river.



**Hunting Report: Waterfowl:** Hunters had good success opening weekend. Duck numbers appear to be good in the area.

# Hanson County

Andy Petersen/Matt Talbert



**Fishing Report:** Fishing has been rather slow, a few northerns and panfish have been caught.

**Lake Hanson:**

**Ethan Dam:**

**James River:**



## Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** Hunters had good success opening weekend. Duck numbers appear to be good in the area.

# Hutchinson County

Brian Humphrey



**Fishing:** No fishing activity observed.



**Hunting:** Dove hunting has slowed down due to cooler temps. Heard some reports of some youth hunters finding some pheasants this past weekend. I have observed a fair number of young rooster pheasants with very little color. Hunters planning to hunt the resident pheasant season next weekend will need to take a little more time to ID the birds before they shoot. No archery deer hunting activity observed. There have been a few geese being shot in the county.

# Jerauld County

Lynn Geuke



**Fishing Report:** No report.



**Hunting Report:** Duck hunting has been slow due to lack of water. Goose hunting has not been good. Pheasant outlook looks good as birds in the area are healthy. There is some good cover for pheasants on the east side of the county.

# Kingsbury County

Shane Van Bockern



## Fishing Reports:

**Lake Thompson:** Fair to good for walleye, crappie, pike, white bass, and some perch.

**West 81:** Fair success on walleye and white bass.

**Lake Whitewood:** Slow.

**Lake Henry:** Slow to fair for pike and walleye.

**Lake Albert:** Fair for pike and walleye.

**Spirit Lake:** Slow.

**Lake Preston:** No activity.



**Hunting Report:** Dove hunting – Little to no hunting pressure.

Canada goose – Goose numbers are low and hunting pressure has been light.

Local duck numbers are very strong.

# Lake County

Cody Symens



## Fishing Report:

**Lake Madison:** Anglers catching a few smaller-sized perch and walleye from boats and docks around the lake.

**Lake Herman:** Slow.

**Brant Lake:** Anglers catching 3-5" bass and an occasional northern pike.

**Long Lake:** No pressure.

**Lake Henry:** A few reports of boaters having success catching walleye in the 15-18" range.

**Lake George:** Slow.



**Hunting Report:** Waterfowl hunters had excellent success across the whole county harvesting teal, wood ducks, northern shovelers, and a few mallards. There were very few geese shot last weekend but there is ample opportunity for Canada geese but scouting and decoying is the key to success.

# Lincoln County

Nate Stukel



## Fishing Report:

**Big Sioux:** A few catfish and the occasional walleye are being caught.

**Hudson:** Little fishing activity. Small Bluegill can still be caught from the fishing docks.

**Lake Alvin:** Boat anglers are still having fair success.

**Lake Lakota:** No fishing activity.



## Hunting Report:

**Doves:** Most of the Doves have moved out of the Lincoln County area.

**Ducks:** A fair duck hunting opportunity exists in the county if an individual takes the time to scout and find where the birds are concentrated.

# McCook County

Matt Talbert



## Fishing Report:

**Lake Vermillion:** Shore anglers have had some luck on Catfish. Not much water is running over the spillway reducing the likelihood of catching anything in that area. Boat anglers have been picking up a few walleye here and there early and late in the day.

**Island Lake:** Shore and Boat anglers will have some luck on pike and smallmouth bass.

**Lehrman Slough:** No fishing activity seen.



## Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl-** Plenty of ducks in the area.

# Miner County

Evan Meyer



**Fishing Report:** No activity.



**Hunting Report:** Bean harvest is going good. Still some teal and wood ducks around. Fair number of ducks in the area. Most farmers are finished cutting silage which should open opportunity for field hunting. Colder temps should push smaller ducks out.

# Minnehaha County

Jared Hill



## Fishing Report:

**Beaver Lake:** A few walleye, small perch and crappie.

**Scott Slough:** Bullheads fair to good. A few small perch and walleye.

**Island Lake:** A few pike, perch, and walleye.

**Loss Lake:** Bullheads fair and a few walleye.

**Lost Lake:** No reports.

**Twin Lakes:** Walleyes fair to good. **(REMEMBER: 28 inch minimum on Walleyes.)**

**Family Park:** A few trout, bluegill, and crappie.

**Wall Lake:** A few walleye, blue gill, and crappie.

**Clear Lake:** No reports.



**Hunting Report:** Goose hunters who have spent time scouting are having success. Try and pattern the birds to maximize your opportunity. Duck hunter have been having fair to good success.

# Moody County

Chad Williams



**Fishing Report:** Anglers are still catching a few walleyes below the Flandreau Dam using jig head and minnow. Catfish have been biting using liver, stink bait, crawlers, and raw shrimp or leopard frogs.



**Hunting Report:** There are fewer and fewer doves in the area with the cooler temps. The first two weekends of duck opener there were lots of hunters on the public land north of Colman. There are still plenty of ducks around, but there more dispersed and spread out. Farmers are cutting silage in the area, so more opportunity for field hunting ducks and geese.

## Sanborn County

Evan Meyer



**Fishing Report:** Fishing activity has been minimal in the county.



**Hunting Report:** Bean harvest is going good. Still some teal and wood ducks around. Fair number of ducks in the area. Most farmers are finished cutting silage which should open opportunity for field hunting. Colder temps should push smaller ducks out.

## Turner County

Brian Humphrey



**Fishing Report:** Fishing forecast for Swan Lake looks good for anglers who are seeking to catch some nice Walleyes.



**Hunting:** Duck and goose hunters have has some success at Mud Lake GPA shooting some ducks and geese. No signs of any archery hunters yet.

## Union County

Tony Stokely / Nate Stukel



**Fishing Report:** Little fishing activity.

**Missouri River:** Low activity.

**Big Sioux River:** Low activity. Boaters still accessing Sioux River on Hwy 50 east of Richland on Iowa side, also north of Akron.

**McCook Lake:** Little to no activity.

**Reminder:** There must be a wearable lifejacket of appropriate size for everybody on board your boat.



**Hunting Report:** Minimal success on geese and doves. Teal numbers are sporadic with good numbers at times, this is weather dependent. Waterfowl hunters on the Missouri River will be dealing with higher water levels than in the years past. The higher water level is expected to stay the same or increase potentially until December 10<sup>th</sup> according to the Army Corp of Engineers. Archery Deer Hunters are prepping for opening weekend. Crop harvest will be a factor this year and will provide a lot of cover later into the year.

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# Yankton County

Dan Altman



## **Fishing Report:**

**Marindahl:** Fishing pressure and catch rates are low.

**Lewis and Clark:** Fishing pressure and catch rates have increased over the past two weeks. Anglers fishing from boats are having the most success catching walleye. Some walleye are also being picked up around Lewis and Clark Marina causeway.

**James River:** No report.

**Lake Yankton:** **DEAD!!!** The first stage of the Lake Yankton renovation project is complete. Stocking efforts are scheduled for this fall

**Missouri River:** Fishing pressure and catch rates are low.



**Hunting Report:** The Unit 1 Canada goose season and Low Plains Middle Zone duck season are currently open in Yankton County. **Remember, the limit for Canada geese in Unit 1 is now 8 geese instead of 15 geese.**

The Low Plains South Zone duck season opens October 11<sup>th</sup>. Waterfowl have started moving into the area but numbers are nowhere near the peak migration. Hunters focusing in the northern part of Yankton County are having the best success.

Archery and Youth deer seasons are currently open. Deer numbers have increased in Yankton County compared to last year. Deer numbers are below normal in the central/north part of the county and are high in other isolated areas.

Region 3 updates.